

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 04778 021034Z

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ACTION EA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5619

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

HONG KONG 1806

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 4778

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK, HONG KONG AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE FOR S/PRS AND EA/P

SECDEF FOR OASD/PA

SUBJECT: KHMER SITUATIONER UP-DATE - APRIL 2, 1974

1. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY IN PHNOM PENH, PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET ANNOUNCED A DECREE ESTABLISHING A NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. ACCORDING TO THE PRIME MINISTER, THE COUNCIL WILL (A) EXAMINE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS SUBMITTED TO IT BY THE KHMER GOVERNMENT AND THE FANK HIGH COMMAND AND (B) ASSIST PRESIDENT LON NOL IN IMPLEMENTING AND INCREASING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC'S MILITARY AND POLITICAL POLICIES.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER STATED THAT, UNLIKE THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL WHICH WAS ABOLISHED ON SUNDAY, THE NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS NO LEGISLATIVE POWERS. THE DISSOLUTION OF THE FORMER HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL, HE STRESSED, DOES NOT MEAN THAT THERE WILL BE ANY CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT POLICIES.

3. LONG BORET ALSO ANNOUNCED THE CREATION OF THE NEW POST OF HIGH ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC AND

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PAGE 02 PHNOM 04778 021034Z

SAID THAT PRESIDENT LON NOL HAS APPOINTED FORMER HIGH

POLITICAL COUNCIL MEMBER LT. GENERAL SIRIK MATAK TO THAT POSITION. THE HIGH ASSISTANT IS ONE OF THREE MEMBERS OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THE PRESIDENT OF WHICH IS REPUBLIC PRESIDENT LON NOL. THE OTHER TWO MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ARE PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET AND FANK COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF MAJ. GENERAL SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ.

4. ASKED BY REPORTERS WHETHER HIS GOVERNMENT HAS HAD ANY CONTACTS WITH THE OTHER SIDE CONCERNING PEACE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THERE WERE "INCREDIBLE RUMORS AND SPECULATION" BUT THEY WERE ONLY THAT. HE SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS NOT DISCOURAGED AND HAS NEVER LOST PATIENCE, BUT THUS FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO SERIOUS RESPONSE FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

5. ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A COALITION GOVERNMENT IN CAMBODIA SIMILAR TO THE ONE IN LAOS, LONG BORET REPLIED THAT THE SITUATION IN LAOS AND CAMBODIA ARE DIFFERENT. THE LAOTIAN SOLUTION, HE SAID, CANNOT BE COPIED IN CAMBODIA. HE STRESSED THAT THE CAMBODIAN PROBLEM WILL HAVE TO BE SOLVED BY KHMER BUT THE SOLUTION HAS NOT YET BEEN FOUND.

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